

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This is responsive to the Response to Amendment mailed April 29, 2005 in which the Examiner has asked Applicant to show the basis for the statement in the Amendment filed February 4, 2002 that "Applicant believes that the claim 1 is entitled to the priority of Application No. 60/165,885, filed November 16, 1999." Applicant believes that the following claim chart will provide the basis for the assertion that claim 1 is supported by the provisional filing date.

<p>1. (Previously presented) A method for managing postage products, the method performed by a server system and one or more user computers, the server system comprising at least one server computer, the method comprising:</p>	<p>The Summary of the Invention states, at page 3, lines 3-5 that "An exemplary embodiment provides a consumer with a plurality of mailing and/or shipping products, which includes goods and/or services, using a single account."</p> <p>FIG. 1 shows server 110 in communication with a plurality of consumer systems 118a-c. The Description of the Specific Embodiments states at page 3, lines 16-27 that:</p> <p>FIG. 1 illustrates a simplified block diagram of a specific embodiment of the present invention. The system includes a computer server 110, including a processor and memory, connected via network connection 112, ..., to a communications network 114, for example, the Internet or an intranet. Several example consumer systems 118a, 118b, 118c, are connected to the communications network 114 through connections 116a, 116b, and 116c. A consumer system 118a includes a remote device 120, for example, a consumer personal computer or a personal digital assistant (PDA), and a printer 122, which may be, for example, a dedicated postal printer, a laser general purpose printer, general purpose dot-matrix printer, general purpose thermal printer, or the like.</p>
<p>the server system causing information about a plurality of distinct postage products to be displayed to at least one user computer;</p>	<p>As noted above, consumer systems 118a-c can be considered user computers. The specification, at page 4, lines 3-4, states:</p> <p>FIG. 2 illustrates a simplified format of a web page display 210 listing example products of a specific embodiment of the present invention.</p>

the server system receiving a selection of at least one of said plurality of products from said at least one user computer;	<p>The specification, at page 4, lines 4-13, describes the embodiment where user selection is effected by the use of check boxes, reading as follows:</p> <p>... The selected box 212 with the "X," shows the description 212 of the product, for example, "Simply Postage," that the consumer is using. The products may include services or goods or both. <i>The boxes 216 and 220 illustrate that the products, for example, PC Stamp 218, and Postage Plus 222 are not being used by the consumer, but are available for selection and use.</i> There may be N (an integer) number of products available to the consumer. For example M, an integer, less than or equal to N, is another product 226 that has been selected by the consumer checking box 224. <i>Thus the consumer may add or remove products, 214, 218, 222, 226, and 232, by checking or unchecking boxes 212, 216, 220, 224, and 230.</i></p>
the server system comparing said selection with subscription information about ones of said plurality of products currently subscribed;	<p>The specification, at page 4, lines 13-21, describe the manner in which the server responds to user selections, reading as follows:</p> <p>... If the consumer has no account, in another embodiment the server may send links to Web pages so that the consumer can set up a new account. When the consumer unchecks a box a Return Merchandise Authorization (RMA) may be given to the customer to return hardware and/or software that he/she has been provided by the vendor/rentor. For example, the consumer may have to return the PSD to the vendor/rentor. If the consumer unchecks all boxes, in one specific embodiment, the server may display a Web page asking if the consumer desires to end all use of the products. In another embodiment at least one of the boxes must be checked, indicating the consumer has an account.</p>
the server system updating said subscription information based upon said selection; and	<p>The updating occurs as described above.</p>

<p>the server system providing access to selected products based upon said updated subscription information.</p>	<p>Although the provision of access to the selected products is inherent in the above portions of the specification, A specific embodiment of selective enablement of functionality is described at page 6, line 26 through page 7, line 8, which reads as follows:</p> <p>Regardless of which features the consumer chooses to buy or lease, in one embodiment the entire software application is installed initially. When the consumer makes his/her selection or deselection, the service company sets or resets on-line flags in the program to enable the features that were purchased/leased, and/or to disable those that were not. In another embodiment the software is installed on-line on an as needed basis.</p> <p>Hardware items are supplied as needed; for example, if the consumer selects only Option 1, no hardware is required; the consumer is enrolled on-line, and is then enabled to use the service. If the consumer in the preceding example later chooses to add Option 2, the necessary enrollment changes are entered on-line, and the PSD is sent to the consumer. If a consumer of Option 1 chooses to add Option 3, the combined PSD and dedicated printer are sent. If a consumer of Option 2 chooses to add Option 3, the dedicated printer only is supplied, and the consumer combines it with the PSD already in use for Option 2. A consumer of Option 3 may later add Option 2, and operate either or both options from the PSD originally supplied with Option 3. Consumers of Option 2 and/or Option 3 may add Option 1 at any time, with no hardware changes or new software installation; Option 1 only requires that the applicable parts of the software application be enabled.</p>
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Applicant respectfully submits that the above claim chart sets forth a compelling case that claim 1 is fully supported by Application No. 60/165,885, filed November 16, 1999.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant believes all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

Application No. 09/820,428
Amendment dated May 26, 2005
Reply to Office Action of April 29, 2005

PATENT

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Slone". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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